

CIVIL RIGHTS RENAISSANCE

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Clara Shortridge Foltz
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DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING
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DFEH CIVIL RIGHTS RENAISSANCE

Clara Shortridge Foltz, California's first female lawyer and a suffragist, sued the University of California, Hastings Law College, winning the right for women to be admitted into law school. *Foltz v. Hodge* (1879) 54 Cal. 28.) Foltz's lobbying led to the enactment of the Women's Lawyer Bill under the Statutes of 1878 of the Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature, which amended then section 275 of the Code of Civil Procedure to read: "Any citizen or person resident of this State who has bona fide declared his or her intention to become a citizen in the manner required by law, of the age of twenty-one years, of good moral character, and who possesses the necessary qualifications of learning and ability, is entitled to admission as attorney and counselor in all the Courts of this State." Under the language of Article XX, section 18, California became one of the first states to open its doors to women to enter the legal profession. She was also the impetus for Article I, section 8, of the California Constitution, which in its original form, as Article XX, section 18, of the Constitution of 1879, this provision read: "No person shall on account of sex be disqualified from entering upon or pursuing any lawful business, vocation, or profession." Foltz's many other trail-blazing accomplishments included becoming the first woman appointed clerk to the State Judiciary Committee, member of the State Board of Corrections, a licensed Notary Public, director of a major bank, a deputy district attorney of Los Angeles, founder and publisher of the *San Diego Daily Bee* and *New American Woman Magazine*. In 1930, at the age of 81, Foltz was the first woman to run for Governor of California.

The DFEH investigates, conciliates, mediates, and prosecutes violations of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), Unruh Civil Rights Act, Ralph Civil Rights Act and Disabled Persons Act. Having celebrated the FEHA's first half century in 2009, this year ushers in a new era of civil rights renaissance filled with a renewed commitment to providing public service, outreach, advocacy and resource. www.dfeh.ca.gov.

DFEH Events This Month

- **March 4 - First Lady Maria Shriver's "Day at the Museum: Celebrate, Honor and Meet California's Remarkable Women All Day Long," Women's History Month at the California Museum, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.** <http://www.californiamuseum.org>
- **March 10 - DFEH Director Phyllis Cheng, Associate Chief Deputy Director | Special Projects Counsel Annmarie Billotti, and Mediator Jo Anne Frankfurt provide training at the DFEH Volunteer Mediation Program, Elihu Harris State Building, 1515 Clay St., 2nd Fl., Room 10, Oakland, CA 94612.** See <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov/DFEH/Renaissance/2010%20Volunteer%20Mediation%20Program%20Flyer.pdf>
- **March 11 - DFEH Director Phyllis Cheng makes remarks at the Littler Mendelson 2010 Employment Law Update, followed by a meeting to re-establish the Northern California Employment Round Table Board of Directors, Renaissance Club Sport, 2805 Jones Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, 8 am-12 noon.** See <http://www.littler.com/Events/Lists/Seminars/LittlerDispForm.aspx?List=bf2fd5cd%2Db3fc%2D43ce%2D81d4%2D73870e6b4a20&id=595>
- **March 26 - DFEH Director Phyllis Cheng makes opening remarks at the Employment Round Table of Southern California (ERTSC) Breakfast Seminar, Loyola Law School, Hall of the 70s, 919 Albany St., Downtown Los Angeles, CA 90015, 7:30-11:30 am.** See [http://www.dfeh.ca.gov/DFEH/Announcements/SCERT/ERTSC%203-26-10%20Flyer%20Final%20\(3\)](http://www.dfeh.ca.gov/DFEH/Announcements/SCERT/ERTSC%203-26-10%20Flyer%20Final%20(3))

March 2010



February 2010						
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28						

April 2010						
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Day at the Museum, Women's History Month at the California Museum	5	6
7	8	9	10 DFEH Volunteer Mediator Training	11 Littler Breakfast Training/NCERT Board Meeting	12	13
14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 ERTSC Breakfast Seminar and Board Meeting,, Loyola Law School	27
28	29 Passover (sundown)	30	31 Cesar Chavez Day			